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061428Z Jun 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	R-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W		
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9038
INFO NSC WASHDC
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 001815

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/S (KRAFT, RENDER), AF/PD (COX, SANDERS), AF/RA, NSC FOR
JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/11

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: ANDREW YOUNG VISITS ZIMBABWE, DEFENDS PRESIDENT MUGABE'S
LAND REFORM PROGRAM

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D)

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1. (U) FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ANDREW YOUNG PAID A BRIEF VISIT TO ZIMBABWE JUNE 4-6, 2001, MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS ON JUNE 5. AFTER MEETING PRESIDENT MUGABE, FORMER AMBASSADOR YOUNG GRANTED A LENGTHY INTERVIEW TO THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ZIMBABWE BROADCASTING CORPORATION (ZBC). EXCERPTS OF THAT INTERVIEW RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY ON ZBC'S PRIME TIME EVENING TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM ON JUNE 5. ZBC RADIO ALSO CARRIED REPORTS OF FORMER AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENTS, AND THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY

"THE HERALD" GAVE THE STORY FRONT-PAGE PLAY. INDEPENDENT DAILY "THE DAILY NEWS" RAN THE STORY ON PAGE 2.

12. (U) THE GIST OF YOUNG'S COMMENTS TO THE MEDIA WAS THAT PRESIDENT MUGABE WAS DOING A GOOD JOB OF MANAGING AN INITIATIVE (THE LAND REFORM PROGRAM) TO CORRECT HISTORIC INJUSTICES. YOUNG SAID THAT, "PRESIDENT MUGABE IS DOING A MUCH BETTER JOB HERE THAN THE BRITISH ARE DOING IN MANAGING IRELAND" (SIC). YOUNG SET OUT THE HISTORICAL REASONS FOR ZIMBABWE'S SITUATION BY SAYING THAT GOVERNMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES HAD FAILED TO LIVE UP TO COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT LAND REFORM IN ZIMBABWE MADE DURING THE LANCASTER HOUSE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1979.

13. (U) YOUNG SAID THAT ZIMBABWE WAS BEING UNFAIRLY VICTIMIZED BY "PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE COUNTRY." HE ALSO SAID THAT "MUGABE'S CRITICS ACT AS IF MUGABE HAS NOT BEEN ELECTED AND THEY FORGET THAT WHO RULES THE COUNTRY IS THE PREROGATIVE OF ZIMBABWEANS - AFTER ALL, MUGABE HAS A BETTER MANDATE THAN PRESIDENT BUSH." YOUNG CALLED ON THE WORLD TO "TAKE

A HARD LOOK AT ZIMBABWE AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION BETTER." SPEAKING ABOUT RECENT POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE, YOUNG SAID THAT
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IT WAS MINIMAL COMPARED TO THE VIOLENCE CURRENTLY AFFECTING THE MIDDLE EAST.

14. (U) YOUNG ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE MORALITY OF THE LAND ISSUE IN ZIMBABWE. HE SAID IT WAS NOT MORALLY JUSTIFIABLE FOR 1 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION TO OWN 70 PERCENT OF THE LAND. "A LOT OF THE WHITE FOLKS HERE WILL GO TO HELL FOR THEIR LACK OF MORAL JUSTIFICATION ON THE LAND ISSUE," YOUNG SAID.

15. (C) COMMENT: FORMER AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE AND IS WELL KNOWN IN ZIMBABWE. IN ADDITION TO HIS TIME

AS U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, YOUNG IS ALSO KNOWN LOCALLY

AS THE LONG-TIME MAYOR OF ATLANTA AND ONE OF THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. THE GENERAL PERCEPTION OF YOUNG IS THAT, ALTHOUGH HE NO LONGER HOLDS PUBLIC OFFICE, HE STILL HAS SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND THE MEDIA. YOUNG'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT MUGABE'S LAND REFORM EFFORT WAS CERTAINLY APPRECIATED WITHIN THE RULING PARTY. OTHER SECTORS

OF ZIMBABWEAN SOCIETY MAY BE PUZZLED THAT YOUNG SEEMED UNAWARE OF THE
BREAKDOWN OF THE RULE OF LAW IN ZIMBABWE, OR OF ASSAULTS ON THE MEDIA,
THE JUDICIARY AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL ACTIVISTS. AFTER THE NEWS
BROADCAST, OPPOSITION POLITICIANS CALLED EMBASSY OFFICERS TO EXPRESS
THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUNG'S REMARKS. THEY WERE ASSURED THAT YOUNG HAD
EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, WHICH IN NO WAY REFLECTED THE POSITION OF

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT

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